

## Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INRE-00 ( ISO ) W

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FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO USUN NEWYORK NIACT IMMEDIATE 2592

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5028

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 7475

EXDIS

USUN PLS PASS SECRETARY'S PARTY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UT

SUBJ: POSSIBLE AEGEAN OIL EXPLORATION BY US COMPANY

1. MELIH GENCA, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR GENERAL TURKISH STATE PETROLEUM CORPORATION (TPAO), IN SEPTEMBER 30 MEETING WITH ECON COUNSELOR CONFIRMED SEDCO INTEREST IN OFFSHORE DRILLING OPERATIONS FOR TURKEY IN AEGEAN AND ELSEWHERE. (OUR FILES SHOW SEDCO INTEREST DATES BACK AT LEAST AS FAR AS 1974 WHEN COMPANY DISCUSSIONS WITH TPAO RESULTED IN NO AGREEMENT). SEDCO VICE PRESIDENT CHARLES PURBOUGH TALKED SECOND WEEK OF AUGUST WITH TPAO ON THIS MATTER AND US COMPANY IS NOW CONSIDERING WHAT TO DO. KEY FACTOR UNDER CONSIDERATION IS FINANCING, WHICH TURKS ARE LOOKING TO DRILLING CONCERN TO ARRANGE.

2. GENCA ADDED THAT TWO OTHER US FIRMS, READING AND BATES AND FOSTER WHEELER, WERE ALSO LOOKING INTO OFFSHORE DRILLING WORK, THE LATTER AT INVITATION OF MINISTER OF ENERGY.

3. GENCA SAID ALL US FIRMS WERE LEERY OF OPERATING IN AEGEAN. HE EXPECTED GREEK AND TURKS TO BE ABLE TO DELINEATE CONTINENTAL SHELF DIVISION THERE, HOWEVER, WITHIN NEXT EIGHT MONTHS. HE ADDED THAT ONLY PRACTICAL WAY TO EXPLOIT RESOURCES OF AEGEAN WOULD BE THROUGH JOINT EXPLOITATION BY GREECE AND TURKEY, BUT THIS WAS OF COURSE OUT OF QUESTION UNTIL THEY HAVE REACHED AGREEMENT ON CONTINENTAL SHELF

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DELINEATION.

4. COMMENT. EMBASSY WOULD BE SURPRISED IF AMERICAN COMPANIES WERE NOT NOW INVESTIGATING COMMERCIAL DRILLING OPPORTUNITIES WITH GOS. ON OTHER HAND, WE WOULD BE EVEN MORE SURPRISED IF THESE COMPANIES ACTUALLY AGREED TO CARRY OUT DRILLING OPERATIONS IN ANY AREA WHERE THEY WOULD RUN SERIOUS RISK OF BEING SHOT AT BY THE GREEKS. WE SPECULATE THAT WHAT IS HAPPENING IS THAT COMPANIES ARE TRYING TO GET IN ON GROUND FLOOR NOW IN HOPE THAT GREEK-TURK AEGEAN JURISDICTIONAL DISPUTES WILL EVENTUALLY BE SETTLED AND/OR THAT SAME COMPANIES CAN GET TURKISH CONTRACTS TO DRILL IN AREAS CLEARLY NOT IN DISPUTE.  
MACOMBER

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## Message Attributes

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